

wording in the drawings. Figure 31 and 32 are being amended, as shown in the enclosed drawing sheets with markings in RED ink. Also enclosed herewith is a LETTER TO THE OFFICIAL DRAFTSPERSON for the proposed amendment to the drawings.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings in section 1 of the Office Action.

In section 1 of the office action, claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 22-23, and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hurst et al. (USP 6,151,633). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The independent claims 1 and 11 are being amended to recite features that are not disclosed or suggested in Hurst. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the combination of Hurst.

Various claims depend from the independent claims 1 or 11, and are patentable over Hurst for at least the same reasons that their corresponding base claim is patentable over Hurst.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In section 3 of the office action, claims 2-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hurst et al. (USP 6,151,633) as applied to

claim 1, and further in view of Allon et al. (USP 5,539,883). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The independent claims 1 and 11 are being amended to recite features that are not disclosed or suggested in Hurst and Allon, whether the cited references are considered singly or in combination. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the combination of Hurst and Allon.

Various claims depend from the independent claims 1 and 11, and are patentable over the combination of Hurst and Allon for at least the same reasons that their corresponding base claim is patentable over the same combination.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

In the section 11 of the Office Action, claims 21 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is being amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and claim 21. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the references cited in the office action.

Claim 11 is being amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and claim 24. Therefore, claim 11 is patentable over the references cited in the office action.

For the above reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of this objection in Section 11 of the office action.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims.

If the undersigned attorney has overlooked a teaching in any of the cited references that is relevant to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically point out where such teachings may be found.

Shown in the section below is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification or claims by the current amendment. The section is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the drawings:

Please amend the Figure 31 and 32, as shown in the enclosed drawing sheets with markings in RED ink.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as shown below:

1. (Twice Amended) A method operable within a network switch for managing a broadcast tree, said method comprising the steps of:

constructing a pruned broadcast tree by propagation of dynamic cost information packets; and
forwarding received broadcast messages to other network devices in accordance with said pruned broadcast tree, wherein an acknowledgement message is received in response to the dynamic cost information packet, where the acknowledgement message indicates if an associated path should be used for broadcast to an identified network device.

11. (Twice Amended) A network switch including a computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying a method operable within said network switch for managing a broadcast tree, said method comprising the steps of:

constructing a pruned broadcast tree by propagation of dynamic cost information packets; and
forwarding received broadcast messages to other network devices in accordance with said pruned

broadcast tree, wherein an acknowledgement message is received in response to the dynamic cost information packet, where the acknowledgement message indicates if an associated path should be used for broadcast to an identified network device.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (805) 681-5078.

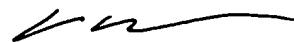
Date: March 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
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